

JEWISH B2B NETWORKING: A VALUED RESOURCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND OUR COMMUNITY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jewish B2B Networking (JBN) and its founder, Shalom Klein, for their outstanding work in promoting and nurturing small businesses in the metro Chicago area. Next week, on June 14, JBN will hold its second "Business Event" at the Lincolnwood Town Center in my district, just one of the many ways that it is helping small businesses, workers and our economy.

I attended last year's inaugural Business Event, along with representatives from over 2,700 small businesses, elected officials and job seekers. It was extraordinary—a vibrant, exciting and incredibly useful opportunity for small businesses to network, learn from each other, make contacts, set up meetings to help build their companies, and share their experiences and concerns with Members of Congress. It was so successful that plans began right there on the spot to hold another Event in 2012.

Small business men and women are essential to our economic well-being. In Illinois, they represent 98 percent of all employers. They also represent the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that has made our country so strong. It is imperative that we foster small business creation and expansion—and that is the mission of JBN.

It is never easy to start a small business, but it is especially challenging today as we work to recover from the impacts of the Great Recession. JBN was formed in 2010, through the vision of Shalom Klein, to help provide the support and tools needed to help small businesses thrive.

Through its monthly networking events, JBN provides critical and practical information to help small business owners learn about available lending resources. Business to business networking through monthly forums provide the opportunity to share "best practices" and pick up tips that can help small businesses succeed. JBN is creating a vibrant network—not just among Chicagoland small businesses but between small businesses and policymakers at the local, State and national levels. This year, for example, they brought small business owners to Washington, D.C. so that they could share their experiences and recommendations with the Obama Administration and Members of Congress and also learn about opportunities and assistance.

JBN has touched over 6,000 active business networking partners and has over 17,000 subscribed networkers receiving weekly communications and utilizing its interactive website.

Through its Business Event and through on-line job listings, JBN has helped more than 200 job seekers obtain employment. Over 5,000 businesses and job seekers are expected at next week's event in Lincolnwood, to exchange business information, ideas, and resources.

There are many wonderful small business men and women who have contributed to the

success of JBN, but I want to specifically recognize the vision and work of Shalom Klein, its founder. As a small businessman, Shalom felt the need to connect with others. As an organizer, he did something about it. He invited 20 people to an informal "networking" lunch at the Slice of Life kosher restaurant in Skokie—and 70 people came.

Out of Shalom's initiative, Jewish B2B Networking was born. Open to all, the non-profit organization has taken off—serving a role that had been missing in the community. What I so admire about Shalom Klein—beyond his enthusiasm and skill—is his refusal to rest on his laurels, despite the many successes he has already achieved. As he has said, he will not be satisfied if JBN reaches a plateau—as high as it may be—he wants it to keep growing and growing, empowering more and more small business men and women. His spirit is infectious, his ability to inspire people to action is enormous, and I know he and JBN will continue to excel in their efforts.

JBN knows that local communities cannot prosper without small businesses, and they are committed to providing the climate that will help them succeed. I want to thank JBN for all that it has done already and wish it well as it, like the small businesses it assists, seeks to expand its activities in the future.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM ARTHUR FIELDS, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. William Arthur Fields, Sr., who lived his life centered around family, community, and hard work.

Mr. Fields was born on May 21, 1915 in Columbus, Ohio. He was married to Estelle, for 68 years and had four children, William, Jr., Ronald, Janice and Charles. He was an avid reader, who enjoyed hunting, fishing and golf and shared his love of nature with his family on many fishing trips to Lake Erie. He was a life-long member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Fields started a family-owned and operated construction and masonry company, Fields Brothers Masonry. A skilled block and masonry contractor, he used his skills to improve his community whenever he was called upon. Following his first retirement, Mr. Fields became a dispatcher for the City of Columbus, Maintenance Department. In addition, he was a volunteer firefighter for Clinton Township.

I offer my condolences to his children, Janice Bosley and Charles (JoAnn) Fields; daughters-in-law, Earlene Fields and Shirley Hawkins; brothers, Charles and Carl (Jean) Fields; sister-in-law, Bettye Randle; 15 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the long and prolific life of Mr. William Arthur Fields, Sr.

HEROES OF COMPASSION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the heroes and heroines of compassion in our community for their exceptional devotion to serving the needs of others. In so doing, the ethic they set creates a better way of life for people across our region and enriches the human condition. The Charter for Compassion was created by Karen Armstrong, author of many interfaith books in 2008. Her wish was that the faith leaders of the world would acknowledge their core common value of compassion in a simple document and the response to her idea for Heroes of Compassion was phenomenal. Greater Toledo has many individuals and organizations that qualify as Heroes of Compassion. But many of these individuals and institutions are unsung heroes and heroines. Their stories of compassion are untold, while news of violence and conflict make headlines. The First Heroes of Compassion of Toledo were honored at the 11th Annual MultiFaith Banquet on March 11, 2012 at the Franciscan Center at Lourdes University, and later at a community gathering at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Glendale Ave. The First Heroes of Compassion included:

Sr. Mary Angelita Abair: Decades of work in central Toledo with the poor, marginalized, imprisoned, and disabled;

Cherry Street Mission: Emergency shelter, food and other assistance;

Dr. Lawrence V. Conway, The Diller Foundation: Provides medical equipment and supplies to many deserving countries and the Medical Hall of Fame;

Judge Charles J. Doneghy: Inner city youth mentor and support for prostate cancer awareness;

Fr. Martin Donnelly: Founding chair of Erase the Hate Toledo and Central City Ministries and many other organizations;

Hannah's Socks: Founded by four year old Hannah Turner and has since supplied 200,000+ pairs of socks to the homeless last year;

Jewish Family Service Food Bank: Food, supplies and moral support to the needy in the general community;

Ken Leslie & Pat Lewandowski, 1Matters—Tent City: Working to change the perception of the homeless;

Lifeline Toledo: Support for inner city homeless, including mobile medical support;

The Ronald McDonald House Charities: Provides a free home away from home for families accessing specialized medical care for their children;

Martha Pituch, RN, Cherry St. Mission Clinic: Founded and developed a nursing clinic to provide primary health care for homeless persons;

Devorah (Friedrich) Shulamit, Interfaith Blood Drive: Founder of the first interfaith blood drive in the nation, now in its 25th year;

Sr. Grace Ellen & Sr. Jeremias, Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania Gardens: Developed a nationally recognized four-season polyhouse to provide food for the needy year round;

Mike Szuberla, Toledo GROWS: Provides support for 150 community gardens and re-entry and proactive programs for at-risk youth;